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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference MM/03048/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/08448	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.08.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C07H17/08		
Applicant ZAMBON GROUP S.p.A. et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basis of the opinion
II	<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 01.03.2004	Date of completion of this report 02.02.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer de Nooy, A Telephone No. +31 70 340-2338



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/08448

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-73 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-32 as originally filed

Claims, Pages

75 received on 10.12.2004 with letter of 10.12.2004

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

see separate sheet

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	21-29
	No:	Claims	1-20, 30-32
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	21-29
	No:	Claims	1-20, 30-32
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-32
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/08448

Re Item I

Basis of the report

The amendments filed with the letter of December 10, 2004 cannot be accepted since D1 (FR2735694) cannot be considered as an accidental disclosure. In D1 roxithromycin free of the cladinose sugar is tested as anti-inflammatory agent. Thus, a disclaimer cannot be used to restore novelty over D1 (Article 19(2) PCT).

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: FR2735694

D2: JP2001181294

D3: US5969161

D4: US3923784

D5: EP0682038

D6: US4743593

Novelty

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-20, 30-32 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The documents D1 (tables 1 and 2, roxithromycin without cladinose), D2 (page 34, structure II, pages 39, 41, 49, 57), D3 (column 5, structures VII and VIII), D4 (columns 5 and 6, structures III and IV) and D5 (page 4) disclose compounds falling within claims 1-19. Thus claims 1-19 lack novelty.

Document D6 (column 9, formula V) discloses compounds falling within claim 20. Thus, claim 20 lacks novelty.

Documents D1-D5 disclose above-mentioned compounds in pharmaceutical compositions, thus claim 30 lacks novelty.

Document D1 shows the use of roxithromycin without cladinose (tables 1 and 2) as antiinflammatory compound and for treating respiratory diseases. Thus, claims 31 and 32 lack novelty.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/08448

Inventive step

D1 presents the same solution to the same problem as in the present application, thus claims 1-3, 10-19, 30-32 lack an inventive step. However, when the applicant would be able to overcome the novelty objections mentioned above, an inventive step could be acknowledged for the following reasons:

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claims 1-32, and discloses roxithromycin without cladinose for use as antiinflammatory compound. It is found that cladinose is necessary for antiinflammatory activity (Tables 1 and 2).

The subject-matter of claims 1-32 therefore differs from this known subject matter in that antiinflammatory macrolides without cladinose are claimed.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as the provision of further antiinflammatory compounds.

The solution proposed in claims 1-32 of the present application would be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) if the novelty objections could be overcome for the following reasons:

Document D1 teaches away from the present invention in that cladinose is supposed to be partly or completely responsible for antiinflammatory activity (page 6, lines 36-38).

- X is O, S, SO, SO₂ and NR₆, and R₆ is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C₁-C₃ alkyl, a C₁-C₃ alkoxy carbonyl group or a benzyloxycarbonyl group;
- Y is a C₆H₄ group, a five- or six-membered heteroaryl ring having from one to three hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur or is O, S, SO, SO₂ or NR₆ where R₆ has the meanings given above;
- 5 r is an integer from 1 to 3;
- m is an integer from 1 to 6;
- 10 n is an integer from 0 to 2;
- or R₁ forms a bond together with R₂;
- R₂ is a hydrogen atom or forms a bond together with R₁;
- R₃ is a hydroxy group or forms a group =N-O-R₅ together with R₄, and R₅ is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, a benzyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from nitro, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, linear or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl groups, aminocarbonyl groups or cyano groups or a chain of formula
- 15 -(CH₂)^r-X-(CH₂)^m-Y-(CH₂)ⁿ-A
- 20 wherein
- r, m, n, X, Y and A have the meanings given above;
- R₄ is a hydrogen atom or forms a group =N-O-R₅ together with R₃, and R₅ has the meanings given above;
- 25 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,
- provided, however, that R₁ is not a dimethylamino group when R₃ is hydroxy, and both R₂ and R₄ are a hydrogen atom.
2. A compound according to Claim 1; wherein the oxime group that may be present in position 9 is of E configuration.
 3. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R₁ is a hydrogen atom, an N-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-N-methylamino group, an N-(C₁-C₃)alkyl-N-